

THE VIRGINIA GAZETTE.

The Freedom of the Press is one of the great Bulwarks of Liberty, and can never be restrained but by despotic Governments.

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The AMERICAN CRISIS.

NUMBER I.

By the author of COMMON SENSE.

THESE are the times that try men's souls: The summer soldier and the sunshine patriot will, in this crisis, shrink from the service of his country; but he that stands it *now*, deserves the love and thanks of man and woman. Tyranny, like hell, is not easily conquered; yet we have this consolation with us, that the harder the conflict, the more glorious the triumph.

What we obtain too cheap, we esteem too lightly:—'Tis dearness only that gives every thing its value. Heaven knows how to set a proper price upon its goods; and it would be strange indeed, if so celestial an article as *freedom* should not be highly rated. Britain, with an army to enforce her tyranny, has declared, that she has a right (*not only to tax*) but "*to bind us in all cases whatsoever*," and if being *bound in that manner* is not slavery, then is there not such a thing as slavery on earth. Even the expression is impious, for so unlimited a power can belong only to God.

Whether the independence of the continent was declared too soon, or delayed too long, I will not now enter into an argument; my own simple opinion is, that had it been eight months earlier, it would have been much better. We did not make a proper use of last winter, neither could we, while we were in a dependent state. However, the fault, if it were one, was all our own; we have none to blame but ourselves. But no great deal is lost yet; all that Howe has been doing for this month past is rather a ravage than a conquest, which the spirit of the Jerseys a year ago would have quickly repulsed, and which time and a little resolution will soon recover.

I have as little superstition in me as any man living, but my secret opinion has ever been, and still is, that God Almighty will not give up a people to military destruction, or leave them unsupportedly to perish, who had so earnestly and so repeatedly fought to avoid the calamities of war, by every decent method which wisdom could invent. Neither have I so much of the infidel in me, as to suppose, that *he* has relinquished the government of the world, and given us up to the care of devils; and as I do not, I cannot see on what grounds the King of Britain can look up to Heaven for help against us: A common murderer, a highwayman, or a housebreaker, has as good a pretence as he.

It is surprising to see how rapidly a panic will sometimes run through a country. All nations and ages have been subject to them; Britain has trembled like an ague at the report of a French fleet of flat-bottomed boats; and in the fourteenth century the whole English army, after ravaging the kingdom of France, was driven back like men petrified with fear; and this brave exploit was performed by a few broken forces collected and headed by a woman, Joan of Arc. Would that Heaven might inspire some Jersey maid to spirit up her countrymen, and save her fair fellow sufferers from ravage and ravishment! Yet panics in some cases, have their uses; they produce as much good as hurt. Their duration is always short; the mind soon goes through them, and acquires a firmer habit than before. But their peculiar advantage is, that they are the touchstones of sincerity and hypocrisy, and bring things and men to light, which might otherwise have lain for ever undiscovered. In fact, they have the same effect on secret traitors, which an imaginary apparition would upon a private murderer. They sift out the hidden thoughts of man, and hold them in public to the world. Many a disguised Tory has lately shown his head, that shall penitentially solemnize with curses the day on which Howe arrived upon the Delaware.

As I was with the troops at fort Lee, and marched with them to the edge of Pennsylvania, I am well acquainted with many circumstances, which those, who lived at a distance, know but little or nothing of. Our situation there was exceedingly cramped, the place being on a narrow neck of land between the North river and the Hackinsack. Our force was inconsiderable, being not one fourth so great as Howe could bring

against us. We had no army at hand to have relieved the garrison, had we shut ourselves up and stood on the defence. Our ammunition, light artillery, and the best part of our stores, had been removed upon the apprehension that Howe would endeavour to penetrate the Jerseys, in which case fort Lee could be of no use to us; for it must occur to every thinking man, whether in the army or not, that these kinds of field forts are only for temporary purposes, and last in use no longer than the enemy directs his force against the particular object, which such forts are raised to defend. Such was our situation and condition at fort Lee on the morning of the 20th of November, when an officer arrived with information, that the enemy with 200 boats, had landed about seven or eight miles above Major General Green, who commanded the garrison, immediately ordered them under arms, and sent express to his Excellency General Washington at the town of Hackinsack, distant by way of the ferry six miles. Our first object was to secure the bridge over the Hackinsack, which laid up the river between the enemy and us, about six miles from us and three from them. General Washington arrived in about three quarters of an hour and marched at the head of the troops towards the bridge, which place I expected we should have a brush for; however they did not chuse to dispute it with us, and the greatest part of our troops went over the bridge, the rest over the ferry, except some which passed at a mill on a small creek, between the bridge and the ferry, and made their way through some marshy grounds up to the town of Hackinsack, and there passed the river. We brought off as much baggage as the waggons could contain, the rest was lost. The simple object was to bring off the garrison, and to march them on till they could be strengthened by the Jersey or Pennsylvania militia, so as to be enabled to make a stand. We staid four days at Newark, collected in our out posts, with some of the Jersey militia, and marched out twice to meet the enemy on information of their being advancing, though our numbers were greatly inferior to theirs. Howe, in my little opinion committed a great error in generalship. He might have seized all our stores at Brunswick, and intercepted our march into Pennsylvania: But, if we believe the power of hell to be limited, we must likewise believe that their agents are under some providential controul.

I shall not now attempt to give all the particulars of our retreat to the Delaware; suffice it for the present to say, that both officers and men, though greatly harassed and fatigued, frequently without rest, covering, or provision, the inevitable consequences of a long retreat, bore it with a manly and martial spirit. All their wishes were one, which was, that the country would turn out and help them to drive the enemy back. Voltaire has remarked, that King William never appeared to full advantage but in difficulties and in action; the same remark may be made on General Washington, for the character fits him. There is a natural firmness in some minds which cannot be unlocked by trifles, but which, when unlocked, discovers a cabinet of fortitude; and I reckon it among those kind of public blessings, which we do not immediately see, that God hath blest him with uninterrupted health, and given him a mind that can even flourish upon care.

I shall conclude this paper with some miscellaneous remarks on the state of our affairs; and shall begin with asking the following question. Why is it that the enemy hath left the New England provinces, and made these middle ones the seat of war? The answer is easy: New England is not infested with Tories, and we are. I have been tender in raising the cry against these men, and used numberless arguments to shew them their danger, but it will not do to sacrifice a world to either their folly or their baseness. The period is now arrived, in which either they or we must change our sentiments, or one or both must fall. And what is a Tory? Good God! what is he? I should not be afraid to go with an hundred Whigs against a thousand Tories, were they to attempt to get into arms. Every Tory is a coward, for a servile, slavish, self interested fear is the foundation of Toryism; and a man under such influence, though he may be cruel, never can be brave.

But before the line of irrecoverable separation be drawn between us, let us reason the matter together. Your conduct is an invitation to the enemy, yet not one in a thousand of you has heart enough to join him. Howe is as much deceived by you as the American cause is injured by you. He expects you will all take up arms and flock to his standard with muskets on your shoulders. Your opinions are of no use to him, unless you support him personally; for it is soldiers, and not Tories, that he wants.

* "The present winter" (meaning the last) "is worth an age, if rightly employed, but if lost, or neglected, the whole continent will partake of the evil; and there is no punishment that man does not deserve, be he who, or what, or where he will, that may be the means of sacrificing a season so precious and useful."

COMMON SENSE.

I once felt all that kind of anger, which a man ought to feel, against the mean principles that are held by the Tories. A noted one, who kept a tavern at Amboy, was standing at his door, with as pretty a child in his hand, about eight or nine years old, as most I ever saw, and after speaking his mind as freely as he thought was prudent, finished with this unfurling expression. "Well, give me peace in my day." Not a man lives on the continent but fully believes that a separation must some time or other finally take place, and a generous parent would have said, "If there must be trouble, let it be in my day, that my child may have peace;" and this single reflection, well applied, is sufficient to awaken every man to duty. Not a place upon earth might be so happy as America. Her situation is remote from all the wrangling world, and she has nothing to do but trade with them. A man may easily distinguish in himself between temper and principle, and I am as confident as I am that GOD governs the world, that America will never be happy till she gets clear of foreign dominion. Wars, without ceasing, will break out till that period arrives, and the continent must in the end be conqueror; for though the flame of liberty may sometimes cease to shine, the coal never can expire.

America did not, nor does not, want force; but she wanted a proper application of that force. Wisdom is not the purchase of a day, and it is no wonder that we should err at first setting off. From an excess of tenderness we were unwilling to raise an army, and trusted our cause to the temporary defence of a well meaning militia. A summer's experience has now taught us better; yet with those troops, while they were collected, we were able to set bounds to the progress of the enemy, and, thank GOD! they are again assembling. I always considered a militia as the best troops in the world for a sudden exertion; but they will not do for a long campaign. Howe, it is probable will make an attempt on this city; should he fail on this side the Delaware, he is ruined; if he succeeds, our cause is not ruined. He stakes all on his side against a part on ours; admitting he succeeds, the consequence will be, that armies from both ends of the continent will march to assist their suffering friends in the middle States; for he cannot go every where, it is impossible. I consider Howe as the greatest enemy the Tories have; he is bringing a war into their country, which, had it not been for him, and partly for themselves, they had been clear of. Should he be now expelled, I wish, with all the devotion of a christian, that the names of Whig and Tory may never more be mentioned; but should the Tories give him encouragement to come, or assistance if he come, I as sincerely wish that our next year's arms may expel them from the continent, and the Congress appropriate their possessions to the relief of those who have suffered in well doing. A single successful battle next year will settle the whole. America could carry on a two years war by the confiscation of the property of disaffected persons, and be made happy by their expulsion. Say not that this is revenge, call it rather the soft resentment of a suffering people, who having no object in view but the good of all, have staked their own all upon a seemingly doubtful event. Yet it is folly to argue against determined hardness; eloquence may strike the ear, and the language of sorrow draw forth the tear of compassion, but nothing can reach the heart that is steeled with prejudice.

Quitting this class of men I turn with the warm ardour of a friend to those who have nobly stood, and are yet determined to stand the matter out: I call not upon a few, but upon all; not on this State or that State, but on every State; up and help us; lay your shoulders to the wheel; better have too much force than too little, when so great an object is at stake. Let it be told to the future world, that in the depth of winter when nothing but hope and virtue could survive, that the city and the country, alarmed at one common danger, came forth to meet and repulse it. Say not, that thousands are gone, turn out your tens of thousands; throw not the burthen of the day upon Providence, but "show your faith by your works," that GOD may bless you. It matters not where you live, or what rank of life you hold, the evil or the blessing will reach you all. The far and the near, the home counties and the back, the rich and the poor, shall suffer or rejoice alike. The heart that feels not now, is dead: The blood of his children shall curse his cowardice, who shrinks back at a time when a little might have saved the whole, and made them happy. I love the man that can smile in trouble, that can gather strength from distress, and grow brave by reflection. It is the business of little minds to shrink; but he whose heart is firm, and whose conscience approves his conduct, will pursue his principles unto death. My own line of reasoning is to myself as straight and clear as a ray of light. Not all the treasures of the world, so far as I believe, could have induced me to support an offensive war, for I think it murder; but if a thief breaks into my house, burns and destroys my property, and endeavours to kill me, or those that are in it, and to "bind me in all cases whatsoever," to his absolute will, am I to suffer it? What signifies it to me, whether he who does it is a King or a common man, my countryman or not my countryman? Whether it is done by an individual villain, or an army of them? If we reason to the root of things we shall

find no difference; neither can any just cause be assigned why we should punish in the one case, and pardon in the other. Let them call me rebel, and welcome, I feel no concern from it; but I should suffer the misery of devils were I to make a whore of my soul by swearing allegiance to one, whose character is that of a sottish, stupid, stubborn, worthless, brutish man. I conceive likewise a horrid idea in receiving mercy from a being, who at the last day shall be shrieking to the rocks and mountains to cover him, and fleeing with terror from the orphan, the widow and the slain of America.

There are cases which cannot be overdone by language, and this is one. There are persons too who see not the full extent of the evil that threatens them; they solace themselves with hopes that the enemy, if they succeed, will be merciful. It is the madness of folly to expect mercy from those who have refused to do justice; and even mercy, where conquest is the object, is only a trick of war: The cunning of the fox is as murderous as the violence of the wolfe; and we ought to guard equally against both. Howe's first object is partly by threats and partly by promises, to terrify or seduce the people to deliver up their arms and receive mercy. The Ministry recommended the same plan to Gage, and this is what the Tories call making their peace; "a peace which passeth all understanding" indeed! A peace which would be the immediate forerunner of a worse ruin than any we have yet thought of. Ye men of Pennsylvania, do reason upon those things! Were the back counties to give up their arms, they would fall an easy prey to the Indians; who are all armed. This perhaps is what some Tories would not be sorry for. Were the home counties to deliver up their arms, they would be exposed to the resentment of the back counties, who would then have it in their power to chastise their defection at pleasure. And were any one State to give up its arms, that State must be garrisoned by all Howe's army of Britons and Hessians to preserve it from the anger of the rest. Mutual fear is a principal link in the chain of mutual love, and woe be to that State that breaks the compact. Howe is mercifully inviting you to barbarous destruction, and men must be either rogues or fools that will not see it. I dwell not upon the vapours of imagination; I bring reason to your ears; and, in language as plain as A B C, hold up truth to your eyes.

I thank God that I fear not, I see no real cause for fear. I know our situation well, and can see the way out of it. While our army was collected, Howe dared not risk a battle, and it is no credit to him that he decamped from the White Plains, and waited a mean opportunity to ravage the defenceless Jerseys; but it is great credit to us, that, with an handful of men, we sustained an orderly retreat for near an hundred miles, brought off our ammunition, all our field-pieces, the greatest part of our stores, and had four rivers to pass. None can say that our retreat was precipitate, for we were near three weeks in performing it, that the country might have time to come in. Twice we marched back to meet the enemy and remained out till dark. The sign of fear was not seen in our camp, and had not some of the cowardly and disaffected inhabitants spread false alarms through the country, the Jerseys had never been ravaged. Once more we are again collected and collecting; our new army at both ends of the continent is recruiting fast, and we shall be able to open the next campaign with sixty thousand men, well armed and clothed. This is our situation, and who will may know it. By perseverance and fortitude we have the prospect of a glorious issue; by cowardice and submission, the sad choice of a variety of evils—a ravaged country—a depopulated city—habitations without safety, and slavery without hope—our homes turned into barracks and bawdy-houses for Hessians, and a future race to provide for whose fathers we shall doubt of. Look on this picture, and weep over it?—and if there yet remains one thoughtless wretch who believes it not, let him suffer it unlamented.

CHARLESTOWN (S. C.) Nov. 21.

A GENTLEMAN who arrived since our last from the West Indies, informs us, that he saw Sir Peter Parker's account of the action at Sullivan's island on June 28, in an English newspaper, and that, according to it, the loss on board the fleet considerable exceeds any accounts we had. Sir Peter mentions, that several of the garrison were hanged up during the action; an officer who was in the fort that day accounts for this; some of the soldiers took off their clothes and threw them on the merlons on account of the heat, some of which were driven by the enemy's cannon balls among the trees, and to a person at a distance might have the appearance of a suspended culprit.

Advices from the back country inform us, that Col. Williamson had set out to meet the Cherokee deputies, in order to treat about a peace.

We congratulate our country friends on the abundance of the necessary article of salt, which can now be purchased at thirty five shillings the bushel, and perhaps cheaper by the quantity.

December 5. A pilot boat arrived at Savannah last week from the West Indies with 8000lb. of gunpowder, and a large quantity of lead.

A truce boat, with some persons taken prisoners by the Georgians, was some weeks ago sent to St. Augustine, and returned about ten days since to Savannah. Accounts received by her of the Augustines being in great want of provisions, and that the scarcity was actually so great, several persons, in order to avoid starving, had taken their passages in the packet boat for Falmouth. Col. Lawton, and some other Virginians, mentioned in a former paper to be prisoners at St. Augustine, were, previous to the arrival of the truce boat, kept close prisoners in the castle, but on the treatment our captives received being made known, they have been allowed the liberty of the town.

It is said there is some kind of a proposition made from St. Augustine to Georgia, to suspend all the *petit guerre* by land and on rivers, plundering, stealing Negroes, &c. All the Negroes carried from hence and Georgia were hard at work on the fortifications; but the property had not been yet altered.

The garrison of St. Augustine, we are informed, does not exceed 800 soldiers, most of them foreigners. The whole garrison and inhabitants had been very sickly.

Brigadier General Howe arrived at Savannah from this town on Wednesday last week.

A French sloop, with a valuable cargo of 12,000 lb. of gunpowder, &c. got on Cape Romaine Shoals some time last week. The vessel and cargo are entirely lost, but the crew saved.

Tuesday afternoon a large Bermuda sloop, loaded with salt, unfortunately struck on the Bar, coming in. She soon went to pieces, but the crew were all saved by a schooner coming in at the same time.

By two vessels arrived since our last from the West Indies, we have accounts of an armed brig of 16 guns, commanded by Capt. Christopher Whipple, being taken by the Portland man of war of 50 guns. It is said the master of a Dutch vessel, which he spoke with, led him into the snare, by informing him that the Portland, then in sight, was a large West Indiaman; he, suspecting nothing, immediately bore down, and too late discovered his error.

The above vessels bring accounts of the greatest plenty of merchandise fit for this trade being in Martinico, where the French shew the Americans every encouragement; that they protect all our trading vessels with them, and that 10 sail of the line, and 20 frigates, were expected there from France.

Sixty barrels of gunpowder have arrived here since our last.

Advices from the back country inform us, that Col. Williamson had granted a truce of 27 days to the Cherokee Indians. Another congress, we are told, is to be held at Seneca about the middle of this month.

This afternoon the brigantine of war Comet, Capt. Edward Allen, returned from a cruise, with a sloop and schooner prizes, which he took off St. Augustine Bar last Thursday night. The schooner is called the Mary, Capt. Welch, belonging to Liverpool, bound to Augustine, from St. Vincent's, with 10 hogshheads of rum, 20 barrels of sugar, some dry goods, 2 Negroes, &c. The sloop is the Georgia, Capt. Coffens, of and from Jamaica for St. Augustine, with 7 puncheons of rum, 2 hogshheads of Muscovado sugar, 1 hogshhead and 1 puncheon of refined sugar, 11 Negroes, &c. &c.

BOSTON, December 5.

LAST Saturday afternoon Capt. Barbe, in a vessel belonging to Newbury, arrived at Squam, from Bilbao, in 30 days, with whom came passenger Mr. George Cabot of Beverly, merchant, who informs, that the Spanish and French ports are open to our cruisers and their prizes, and that they permit the American vessels to carry the American flag in their ports; and that both the Courts of Madrid and Versailles were determined to prevent the Russians coming to America. — [This may be credited, as the natural dictate of the soundest policy.]

We hear that a Beverly privateer has taken five empty transports, being part of a fleet of near 200 sail, bound home from New York, whether with design to bring over some Russians, or fetch provisions, time will discover.

NEWPORT, Dec. 2. A Gentleman who arrived in town on Saturday, from Boston, informs that a privateer from the eastward had lately taken a ship with dry goods, &c. whose cargo cost 37,000 l. sterling. The following is the substance of a declaration made before a magistrate at Jamaica.

Capt. Talmash, late of Georgia, but last from Augustine, in the schooner Peggy, on September 6, between Cape Nichola Mole and Cape Maize, was boarded by the Maidstone English frigate, Capt Gardiner, who fired to bring them to; at the same time a French frigate to windward bore down upon him, and fired a shot to leeward, hoisted out their pinnace, and sent their first Lieutenant on board him, who very particularly inquired if his vessel was from the United States of America, and if he wanted protection; if so, he was willing to render him his services.

Being answered in the negative, he sheered off, but continued at a small distance, during the time Capt. Gardiner was examining the papers of said schooner, of which protection Mr. Talmash informed Capt. Gardiner, while they were within hail of each other, upon which the English frigate thought proper to dismiss the schooner, who proceeded on her voyage to Jamaica; and the two ships steered one course."

BALTIMORE, January 1.

IN CONGRESS, December 31, 1776.

This morning CONGRESS received the following letter from General WASHINGTON.

Head Quarters, Newtown, 27th December, 1776.

S I R,

I HAVE the pleasure of congratulating you upon the success of an enterprise, which I had formed against a detachment of the enemy lying in Trenton, and which was executed yesterday morning.

The evening of the 25th, I ordered the troops intended for this service to parade back of M'Kenky's ferry, that they might begin to pass as soon as it grew dark, imagining we should be able to throw them all over, with the necessary artillery, by 12 o'clock, and that we might easily arrive at Trenton by five in the morning, the distance being about nine miles. But the quantity of ice, made that night, impeded the passage of the boats so much, that it was three o'clock before the artillery could all be got over, and near four before the troops took up their line of march.

I formed my detachment into two divisions, one to march up the lower or river road, the other by the upper or Pennington road. As the divisions had nearly the same distance to march, I ordered each of them immediately upon forcing the out guards, to push directly into the town, that they might charge the enemy before they had time to form. The upper division arrived at the enemy's advanced post exactly at 8 o'clock, and in three minutes after, I found, from the fire on the lower road, that that division had also got up: The out guards made but a small opposition, though, for their numbers, they behaved very well, keeping up a constant retreating fire from behind houses.

We presently saw their main body formed, but, from their motions, they seemed undetermined how to act. Being hard pressed by our troops, who had already got possession of part of their artillery, they attempted to file off by a road, on their right, leading to Princeton; but perceiving their intention, I threw a body of troops in their way, which immediately checked them: Finding, from our disposition, that they were surrounded, and they must inevitably be cut to pieces, if they made any further resistance, they agreed to lay down their arms. The number that submitted, in this manner, was 23 officers, and 386 men. Col. Ruhl, the commanding officer, and seven others, were found wounded in the town. I do not exactly know how many they had killed; but I fancy not above twenty or thirty, as they never made any regular stand. Our loss is very trifling indeed; only two officers and one or two privates wounded.

I find that the detachment of the enemy consisted of the three Hessian regiments of Landspatch, Kniphausen, and Ruhl, amounting to about 1500 men, and a troop of British light-horse; but immediately upon the beginning of the attack, all those who were not killed or taken, pushed directly down the road towards Burden-Town. These would likewise have fallen into our hands, could my plan have been completely carried into execution. General Ewing was to have crossed before day at Trenton ferry, and taken possession of the bridge leading out of town; but the quantity of ice was so great, that though he did every thing in his power to effect it, he could not get over. This difficulty also hindered General Cadwallader from crossing, with the Pennsylvania militia, from Bristol; he got part of his foot over, but finding it impossible to embark his artillery, he was obliged to desist. I am fully confident, that could the troops under Generals Ewing and Cadwallader have passed the river, I should have been able, with their assistance, to have driven the enemy from all their posts below Trenton; but the numbers I had with me being inferior to theirs below me, and a strong battalion of light infantry being at Princeton, above me, I thought it most prudent to return the same evening with the prisoners, and the artillery we had taken. We found no stores of any consequence in the town.

In justice to the officers and men I must add, that their behaviour upon this occasion reflects the highest honour upon them. The difficulty of passing the river, in a very severe night, and their march through a violent storm of snow and hail, did not in the least abate their ardour; but when they came to the charge, each seemed to vie with the other in pressing forward, and were I to give a preference to any particular corps, I should do great injustice to the others.

Colonel Baylor, my first Aid de Camp, will have the honour of delivering this to you, and from him you may be made acquainted with many

other particulars; his spirited behaviour, upon every occasion, requires me to recommend him to your particular notice.

I have the honour to be, with great respect,

Sir, your most humble servant,

G. WASHINGTON.

Enclosed I have sent you a particular list of the prisoners, artillery, and other stores.

RETURN of prisoners taken at Trenton, the 26th of December, 1776, by the army under the command of his Excellency General Washington.

Regiment of LANDSPATCH.

1 Lieutenant Colonel, 1 Major, 1 Captain, 3 Lieutenants, 4 Ensigns, 38 serjeants, 6 drummers, 5 musicians, 9 officers servants, 206 rank and file.

Regiment of KNIPHAUSEN.

1 Major, 2 Captains, 2 Lieutenants, 3 Ensigns, 25 serjeants, 6 drummers, 6 officers servants, 258 rank and file.

Regiment of ROHL.

1 Colonel, 1 Lieutenant Colonel, 1 Major, 1 Captain, 2 Lieutenants, 5 Ensigns, 2 surgeons mates, 25 serjeants, 8 drummers, 4 musicians, 9 officers servants, 344 rank and file.

Regiment of ARTILLERY.

1 Lieutenant, 4 serjeants, 1 officer's servant, 32 rank and file.

Total, — 1 Colonel, 2 Lieutenant Colonels, 3 Majors, 4 Captains, 8 Lieutenants, 22 Ensigns, 2 surgeons, 92 serjeants, 20 drummers, 9 musicians, 25 officers servants, 740 rank and file. — 918 prisoners.

6 double-fortified brass three pounders, with carriages complete, 3 ammunition waggons, as many muskets, bayonets, cartouch boxes, and swords, as there are prisoners, 12 drums, and 4 colours.

Published by order of Congress.

CHARLES THOMSON, Sec'ry.

WILLIAMSBURG, January 10.

BESIDES the preceding agreeable intelligence, by yesterday's post, we have advice that a party of our army, under the command of Col. Griffin, has had several successful skirmishes with the Hessians in New Jersey, and sustained but very little loss. We have also a confirmation of all the clothing being taken that was intended for the enemy in Canada, and in the last ship were taken between 60 and 70 prisoners, several of whom were officers, and people of condition.

The death of Mr. John Woodlief of Prince George, mentioned in our last, was premature.

TO be SOLD at the Rocky Ridge, on Friday

the 7th of February, if fair, otherwise next fair Day, FIFTY SLAVES, consisting of Men, Women, Boys, and Girls. One Half the said Negroes will be sold for ready Money, and for the Remainder twelve Months Credit will be allowed, the Purchasers giving Bond (with approved Security) to carry Interest from the Date if not punctually paid to

PHILIP JOHNSON.

JAMES BRAY JOHNSON.

RICHMOND, January 2, 1777.

JUST imported from the West Indies, in the

Schooner *Good Intent*, Capt. Roberts, an Assortment of dry Goods, consisting of GUNPOWDER, 4d, 6d, 8d, 10d, and 20d NAILS, OSNABRUGS, WHITE LINEN, Men's and Women's white SILK HOSE, NEEDLES, PINS, and WRITING PAPER, also a few Hogheads of RUM and MOLASSES, which will be sold at public Vendue in this Town, on Monday the 20th Instant, for ready Money.

JOSHUA STORRS, HUGH WALKER, & Co.

Lower District of JAMES River.

PORT HAMPTON.

LET all Masters and Owners of Vessels, and others whom it may concern, know, that the Naval Office of this Port is open, and the Officer expects all the inward bound to enter according to the Laws of the Commonwealth of Virginia, where they may have a Permit granted to proceed and dispose of their Cargoes in any Districts, Ports, or Places in the said Commonwealth; and that the outward bound, when they come to clear out, will take Care that they have proper Certificates for their Cargo, with a Ballast Master's Certificate, signed and sealed according to Law. Pork, Beef, Flour, Tar, Turpentine, Pitch, and Ballast, &c. Certificates. The Master, Mate, and Boatwain, must be at the Office to clear.

JACOB WRAY, Naval Officer.

WANTED, a SURGEON's MATE for the Brig *Raleigh*, Capt. Travis, now lying at Broadway's, on Appamattox. Any Person inclined to enter the Service are desired to apply to said Captain, or the Surgeon on Board.

At a COURT of HUSTINGS for the City of WILLIAMSBURG, held the 6th Day of JANUARY, 1777.

ORDERED, THAT the Assize of Bread be one

Pound and six Ounces for three Pence three Farthings, and so in Proportion for a greater or lesser Quantity; and that a Copy of this Order be inserted in the *Virginia Gazette*.

(A Copy)

Test,

M. DAVENPORT, C. C.

WILLIAMSBURG, January 8, 1777.

STRAYED, or stolen, from Mr. Matthew

Sackwell's, in Portsmouth, about the first of last Month, a BAY HORSE 4 Feet 10 Inches high, with a hanging Mane and Tail, paces naturally and very rough, shod before, and one Shoe is sprung from the inner Part of his Hoof, so as to occasion it to strike the other Leg when rode; his Brand, if any, forgot. Whoever will deliver the said Horse to Mr. Andrew Mackie in Isle of Wight shall have forty Shillings, or give such Intelligence as I get him, three Dollars.

11

JOHN HAWKINS, Junior.

FOR SALE, a valuable Tract of LAND in

Westmoreland County, containing about 500 Acres, well timbered, lying on Yeocomico River, has a good Dwelling-House thereon, with an exceeding fine Brick Cellar, and other convenient Houses; it abounds with Fish and Oysters, lies within 300 Yards of Yeocomico Warehouse, and convenient to Church and Mills. There are on the said Land more than 1000 Peach Trees beginning to bear. Any Person wanting to purchase may know the Terms by applying to the Subscriber, on the Premises.

(411)

JEREMIAH G. BAILEY.

FOR SALE, the Schooner BETSEY, five

Years old, built at Boston, as she now lies ashore near Pig Point, the Mouth of Nansemond River, with her Sails, Rigging, Cables, Anchors, Masts, Yards, and all other Materials. She is 56 Feet Keel, 22 Feet Beam, and seven Feet and a Half in the Hold, carries 300 Barrels of Flour. Her Materials may be seen at Mr. McKoy's in Nansemond, and any Person inclining to purchase may know the Conditions by applying to the Subscriber at Fredericksburg.

411

ELIEZER CALLENDER.

Any Carpenter, or others, that would undertake to get the said Schooner off, shall receive from the Subscriber 200l. as soon as she is afloat.

TO be SOLD at public Sale, on Monday the

13th of January 1777, being Nansemond Court Day, for ready Money, the SLOOP ANNE, Burthen about two Hundred and twenty Barrels, with her Materials, consisting of a Main-sail, Fore-sail, Jibb, and Flying-Jibb, almost new, two Anchors, and one good Cable, some standing and running Rigging, &c.

(211)

WILLIAM WEBB.

TO be SOLD at Public Auction on the 31st

Day of this Instant (January) for ready Money, at the Plantation of Mr. John Baird, which was last Year occupied by Mr. John Selden, near Blandford, sundry HOUSEHOLD and KITCHEN FURNITURE, CATTLE, SHEEP, and HORSES; also some CORN, PEASE, FODDER, and a good neat CHARIOT, with HARNESS for four Horses, by

(211)

THOMAS TABB, } Executors of the late Mrs.
W. R. W. CURLE, } Martha Wallace, dec'd.

All Persons who have Demands against the said Estate are desired to make them known, and those indebted to make speedy Settlement.

FORTY SHILLINGS REWARD.

RUN away from the Subscriber, the 29th of November, a likely young Negro Fellow named JOE, about 5 Feet 10 Inches high, had on, when he went away, Jacket and Breeches made of dark coloured Kersey, with white Metal Buttons, a short Coat made of a Dutch Blanket, with white Metal Buttons, Virginia knit Stockings, and plain Shoes. As he was brought up in Williamsburg, I expect he is lurking about there. Whoever takes up the said Slave, and commits him to Gaol, or brings him to me in James City County, shall receive the above Reward.

YARMOUTH, Dec. 21, 1776.

JOSEPH HORNSBY.